

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Hardener for curing of epoxy resins which produces materials with high abrasion resistance, photostability and chemical resistance, comprising a sol prepared by controlled hydrolysis and condensation of compounds of the type: $(X-B)_nSi(-Y)_{4-n}$ where $n = 1$ or 2 , $X = SH$, $-N=C=O$, or NR_1R_2 , R_1 , R_2 being chosen from hydrogen, saturated or unsaturated C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl, substituted or non-substituted aryl, formyl, aliphatic or aromatic carbonyl, carbamoyl, sulphonyl, sulfoxyl, phosphonyl, sulphinyl, phosphinyl, while the carbon chains of said compounds may include one or more of the elements oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur, phosphorus, silicon and boron, and/or may include one or more hydrolysable silane units, or R_1 , R_2 are chosen from condensation products or addition products of one or more types of chemical compounds such as acids, alcohols, phenols, amines, aldehydes or epoxides; B is a spacing group chosen from saturated or unsaturated C_1 - C_{18} -alkylene, substituted or nonsubstituted arylene, while the carbon chains of the stated compounds may optionally include one or more of the elements oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur, phosphorus, silicon and boron; and Y is chosen from hydrolysable groups such as alkoxy, carboxyl, and halogen.

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